

Serial No.: 10/631,215

PATENT APPLICATION
Docket No.: NC 84,952

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-14 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 11, 13, and 14 have been rejected. Claims 3, 6, 8-10, and 12 have been objected to.

Claim 1 has been amended to change "copropagating or coaxial" to "copropagating and coaxial." Claim 1 now has the identical scope of original claim 2, now canceled. Applicants note that the specification defines "copropagating or coaxial" as "us[ing] substantially the same optical pathway." (Page 8, lines 20-21.) Thus, any timing of the two lasers, such as sequential or simultaneous, is contemplated by the term.

Claim 3 has been amended to correct the claim dependency.

No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Claim 3 was objected to as dependent upon canceled claim 2. By this amendment, the dependency has been corrected to claim 1.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102, 103

Claims 1, 13, and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Joyce (US 5,292,559) in view of Gnanamuthu (US 4,716,270).

As amended claim 1 is of the same scope as original claim 2, now canceled. In the office action of 03/09/2005, claim 2 was stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, and no new rejections have been raised in the present final rejection. Thus claim 1 is now allowable. Claims 13 and 14 depend from and contain all the limitations of claim 1 and are asserted to allowable on the same basis.

Claims 4, 5, 7, and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Joyce in view of Gnanamuthu and in further view of Hirano (US 6,099,626).

Claims 4, 5, 7, and 11 depend from and contain all the limitations of claim 1 and are asserted to allowable on the same basis as explained above.

Claims 1, 13, and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable

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over Opower (US 5,725,914).

As explained above, claim 1 is allowable as being original claim 2 rewritten in independent form. Claims 13 and 14 depend from and contain all the limitations of claim 1 and are asserted to allowable on the same basis.

Claims 4, 5, 7, and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Opower in view of Joyce and in further view of Hirano.

Claims 4, 5, 7, and 11 depend from and contain all the limitations of claim 1 and are asserted to allowable on the same basis as explained above.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

In the event that a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0281, and in the event that there is a credit due, please credit Deposit Account No. 50-0281.

Respectfully submitted,



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